

Wing CC on State of the Wing: 'The year ahead - there has never been a better time to be a part of Team McGuire'

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*As Col. Balan Ayyar, 305th Air Mobility Wing commander, reaches the end of his tenure in early March he spent some time with the Warrior Spirit discussing the year ahead. At the change of command, the 305th AMW will be giving birth to the 650th Air Base Wing, which will provide installation support to the Joint Base, while the 305th AMW sharpens its focus on the global reach mission and air mobility excellence. These two wings are two halves of the combat wing we're in today; one-half plus another half equals one, not two. So while on the surface you will see two flags flying, we're really one team - one fight. One half of our vision to be "America's Premier Joint Warfighting Base" will be led by the 650th ABW, the other half of our vision to be an "Air Mobility Center of Excellence" will be led by the 305th AMW. The 650th ABW will be the installation support and host wing, and the 305th AMW will be the mission wing.*

**Warrior Spirit:** Sir, could you give us a little background on what will make this transformation work?

**Wing CC:** Mission excellence underpins our transformation. Our enduring themes will continue as we look to achieve goals in the coming year. What underpins our themes are the Air Force core values. Integrity, excellence in all we do, and service before self ... these principles allow us to transform and adapt, contribute and stay true to our warfighting mission. I have high expectations for the wing and installation. We'll be setting the precedent for all six Air Force Joint Bases. We'll go to the fight together in March and again in June, and we will excel. It's important to understand we're part of a historic transformation taking place in Air Mobility Command. At the end of this, our reputation for excellence has to be intact. Our 305th Mission Support Group and 305th Medical Group will fly 650th ABW flags, but they will be in direct support of the global reach mission at McGuire, just as the 305th AMW will be in direct support of the 650th ABW if we have to defend the base. We will work together as one team to achieve 18th Air Force's global requirements.

**Warrior Spirit:** If we apply the theme of preserving resources, we can assume that multiple units will be sharing similar resources on the Joint Base. Stereotypically, the Air Force invests heavily in its quality-of-life programs. Although we've always hosted servicemembers of all branches, will McGuire's quality of life be bolstered or otherwise change as we formally serve a joint community?

**Wing CC:** Air Force standards are not going down; in fact in many cases the joint standards are raising the bar. We'll be increasing our support manning and functions to provide consistent reliable support to all the mission commanders on

this joint installation. From a quality-of-life perspective, we've had a banner year -- I'll be cutting the ribbon on our new family park, AAFES will be funding a \$7 million makeover this year, our new theater, club, community center, tennis courts and trails are coming up, and our new housing, Visiting Officers' Quarters and Temporary Lodging Facility are second to none. You can feel the spirit on this base. The sun is rising on Team McGuire. The Army and Navy will be coming across the line with resources to support their Soldiers and Sailors, and we'll continue to make sure our Airmen and their families have unsurpassed support.

**Warrior Spirit:** The 305th AMW has a rich heritage, from our bomber days in the 1940s through our mobility role we execute today. With these changes, some may feel that our history is being diminished. What are your thoughts on this?

**Wing CC:** Well I can certainly understand the disappointment some Airmen feel about splitting the combat wing into two for a purpose they're not sure will help them improve what they deliver for the nation, but I ask all our Airmen to trust in their leadership during this transition. Some of the benefits will take time to achieve. I'm confident we'll be greater than the sum of our parts. There is a reason Air Force and AMC leadership have asked the 'Can Do' wing to be first - Because they know it will be done right. Listen, we have to adapt. Our history is based on this -- we overcome challenges, not just the ones we're interested in. We share a rich heritage full of adversity, courage, innovation and impact. It's in our blood. In the end, the great story of the 305th AMW isn't fading; it's getting ready to tell another exciting chapter. There has never been a better time to be a part of this wing and installation.